

















## REYNOLDS

### EXPERIENCE IN HORTICULTURE.

#### Pruning for Growth and Pruning for Fruit.

Very much has been written upon the matter of pruning, yet it is surprising to find how little the average man knows about the object and effects of pruning. If a plant, vine, shrub or tree is planted in the spring, most people want to see as great results as possible when the growing season terminates. Hence they hesitate to cut back the growth already made in the spring. Tell them that the way to promote the freest, most luxuriant growth is to prune back thoroughly and they will look incredulous and very likely compromise by cutting off less than what you had intended. They think that the numerous buds that you advise them to remove, if left to grow, would make so many more branches to enlarge the top of a tree or to cover a trellis with a vine. They do not realize that the top of a tree or vine, by diverting the sap from several buds upon last year's growth to one strong bud, near the base, will produce a much ranker growth than if that sap were diffused among a half dozen or dozen buds. That such is a fact, is proven by nurserymen and observing fruit-growers.

If a young tree, or shrub, were growing so rapidly as to threaten to destroy the symmetry of the tree, the uninformed would, very likely, cut off the vigorous branches and, thinking thereby they were remedying the difficulty when the real effect would be to increase it. The true way to check their growth would be to let them alone or, at the most, to cut back but a few buds.

Probably the pruning of no species of trees has been discussed more by fruit-growers than that of the pear and, especially the dwarf pear. Growers naturally wish to produce, as soon as possible, a good sized tree, a tree capable of bearing a goodly burden of fruit. The tree would be brought into fruitfulness as soon as practicable. Perhaps the better way would be to direct their efforts, for the first few years, to the growth of good, strong, healthy wood with fruit only a secondary object. To that end most of the branches should be cut back, during the suspension of growth to a good, strong bud near the base of last year's growth. If any of the branches are growing too rampant, out of proportion to the others, they should be cut so far and if others are making a weak growth, cut them back to a single bud.

When a tree has attained a sufficient size to bear a good crop of fruit and still remains barren, there are two methods of procedure, either to suspend pruning and let the tree grow and then, when it stops growing, early in June, by breaking off the terminal buds, or to prune as usual in winter and then break off the terminal buds in early June. This summer pruning would check the growth of the tree and the tree would probably be directed to the formation of fruit buds. I have known some varieties of pears, when the new growth was cut back early, to form fruit buds on the current year's growth. The tree would probably have a tendency to induce fruitfulness. Any injury to a tree that threatens its existence is pretty certain to throw it into fruitfulness. The object of pruning is to keep the tree from growing too fast and it would almost seem that they are endowed with an instinct that leads them to strive to attain that end and when threatened with a termination of existence, to put forth unexampled efforts to prolong their life behind their backs many times multiply themselves. In their earlier stages of growth the leaf-bud and fruit-bud are identical in structure. If there be an abundant supply of sap the parts of the bud that are destined to become leaves and fruit are in the supply be restricted a portion of the interior leaves may be evolved into stamens, pistils and ova, the reproductive organs of the flower, and fruit follows. Many devices have been employed to produce fruitfulness, by checking the growth, such as cropping, seeding down to grass, girdling, root pruning, etc., but I believe that an intelligent practice of summer pruning may be profitably employed to a greater extent than it ever has been. There is no sense or economy in being obliged to wait fifteen or twenty years for an apple orchard to come into profitable bearing as has been many times the case and a pear orchard ought to begin to pay all expenses within five or six years after transplanting. Yet some growers of fruit, whether for market or for family supply, to experiment in different times and different methods of pruning in accordance with principles of vegetable physiology, and the result is that the tree is too much of the pruning is done. If you cannot furnish yourself a good reason for cutting off any branch or twig you had better let it remain, not go in and slash a tree or plant, right and left, just because you have heard that pruning is an indispensable part of correct tree growing and that you must do it or you are not a genuine horticulturist. There is not a branch of fruit growing less understood than the correct pruning of the tree or plant upon which fruit grows.

**CULTIVATION OF FRUIT CROPS.**

I assume that everyone who attempts to grow fruit understands the great importance of summer cultivation. Especially during the month of June should the cultivator be kept in mind that the tree is in the trouble with many fruit-growers is that they plant more in spring than they can take proper care of during the summer and fall. In the kinds, at least, if not all, are liable to be neglected. This is a fatal mistake. No matter what fruit it is that it cannot be made to pay unless it receives clean, mellow culture through the season. There is not a single species of fruit that will flourish unless neglected. Do readers of Green's Fruit Grower realize how much a proportion of the bulk and weight of fruits come from the mineral ingredients of the soil, and how large a proportion from the atmosphere and from water? I believe there is not one of our domestic fruits that contains more solid matter in one hundred pounds of fruit. Apples and pears, about as solid fruits as we grow, contain but four-tenths of a pound of ash to 100 pounds weight. The remaining 99.6 pounds is composed of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen. Water, from the atmosphere, water and from the soil, composed of oxygen and hydrogen. Air is composed of oxygen and nitrogen, and there is always present in the atmosphere small proportions of carbonic acid gas (carbon and oxygen) rising from breathing animals and consuming vegetable and animal matter. These gases are absorbed through the leaves and roots of growing vegetation. In the light of these truths we may see the importance of keeping the growing trees and plants in the best possible condition for obtaining an abundant supply of water and the gases above in the atmosphere. It is an established fact as well proven as any principle in agriculture, that a mellow surface will prevent the

moisture arising from the subsoil from escaping into the atmosphere by evaporation and detain it in the neighborhood of the roots of growing vegetation where it may be appropriated and organized into fruit-bearing trees and plants and also into fruits. Now the fruit-grower should suffer nothing to interfere with the necessary cultivation of the soil that coming month. If necessary, better buy more horses and cultivators and hire more men than neglect such indispensable means of success. Prune fruit plantations may greatly need cutting and continuing until the result is visible. Recent rains may have packed the surface and the sun baked it until it is nearly impervious to the atmosphere and forms capillaries conducting the moisture away from the surface where it is evaporated.

Stirring the soil promotes chemical action and the decomposition of compounds containing valuable plant-food. When the chemist, in his laboratory, wants to cause decomposition and recombination of mineral compounds, he stirs them vigorously and continuously until the result is achieved. Stirring the soil promotes free access of the atmosphere, with its component gases and other gases contain carbon and ammonia, and its life-imparting energy. Presence of the atmosphere is essential to the life and activity of the roots; for the carrying on the vital operations of the plant, including the circulation of the sap; for the conservation of the moisture in the soil, in fact, for the grand process of converting subjects of the mineral kingdom into vegetable organisms suited for food to animals and for man. I well remember the first real test that I made of the efficacy of frequent stirring of the soil, somewhere over forty years ago. I was in the business of growing and packing, and had a mid-summer, plant of cucumbers for pickles upon a southern slope, a dry sandy loam, about the driest spot on my farm. It was already quite dry and there followed a terrible summer drought, one of the most severe I had ever known. The agricultural journals that I read had begun to talk about the importance of frequent stirring of the soil to counteract the effects of drought and I determined to test the theory on that pickle patch. It adjoined the doorway and I began to stir it every week until the vines covered the ground. It bore a good crop of pickles and, as I had no competitors in the market I could get for the pickles about all I had the check to ask. The gardeners around their pickle patches all dried up in the summer. Four or five years later I made another test of the theory in another State. It was on my first plant of the old Wilson's Albany strawberry. The soil was a light sand and soon after transplanting the plants it came off very dry. I determined to again test the theory of supplying moisture by cultivation. I went through the rows with a cultivator as often as once a week, whether any weeds were visible, or not. It was very dry all through the season and vegetation, as a rule, suffered very much. But those plants grew finely, showed no effects of the drought and next year bore me a fine crop of berries. These tests convinced me of the efficacy of cultivation in counteracting the natural effects of drought and thenceforth I adopted it as a rule of horticulture. I believe that no one can make a thorough success of horticulture who disregards that principle. Frequent stirring of the soil not only destroys weeds—robbers of plant-food and moisture, but it also puts the soil in the best condition for production.

**THE EARLY WORM.**

This spring has been very favorable for early insect depredations. The remarkably warm March, with a mean temperature 12 degrees higher than the average for March for 28 years, expanded the exterior wrappings of leaf-buds to such an extent that small insects could crawl inside and commence feeding upon the folded interior leaves. Although the mean temperature for April was 44 degrees, only equal to the average for April for 28 years, it was one degree warmer than the average for March and insects, protected by the leaves, survived and fed upon the tender foliage. On the 6th of May I visited an orchard in the suburbs of Rochester and was surprised to note the ravages of two species of caterpillars, one called the "pistol case-bearer," also called pistol case-bearer. The former has been many times referred to in this journal and is believed, by many orchardists to be the worst insect enemy with which fruit-growers are concerned. It winters in the larval form, in small cases near the buds and, with the first warm days of spring, will break out of its winter case, crawl into the interior of the expanding leaves of the bud and eat through the tender leaves, and feed upon the tender feed in security beyond the reach of poisons. It not only works into leaf buds but also into fruit buds, feeding upon the most tender, vital parts, the organs of reproduction.

The pistol case-bearer is a very minute worm with a rough, black case the shape of a pistol upon its back, from which it derives its name. It is very common in the leaves, and feeds upon leaves and blossoms. Both of these insects were very numerous in the orchard that I visited, in fact, I thought that nearly half the buds were affected. They appear to dwell together in perfect amity, feeding upon the same buds. Being concealed within the folded leaves they are very hard to reach with insecticides. Both Paris green and kerosene emulsion have been used upon them with partial, but not complete success. The case-bearer is a pest of the leaves. I was expecting, from reports I had read in daily papers, to find the apple aphid very numerous but saw none. Whether they had made their appearance earlier and been frozen, or had not visited this orchard, I am unable to say.—P. O. Reynolds.

**Free.—A Wonderful Shrub.—Cures Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, etc.**

New evidence shows that Alkavis, the new botanical product of the Kava-Kava Shrub, is indeed a true specific cure for diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or by disorders of the Kidneys and urinary organs. A remarkable case is that of Rev. G. Darling, of North Constantia, N. Y., as told in the New York World of recent date. He was cured by Alkavis, after, as he says himself, he had lost faith in man and medicine, and was preparing to die. The similar testimony of extraordinary cures of Kidney and bladder diseases of long standing, comes from many other sufferers, and 1200 hospital cures have been recorded in 30 days. Up to this time the Church, Kidney Cure Co., No. 418 Fourth Avenue, New York, are the only importers of Alkavis, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of GREEN'S FRUIT GROWER who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, or other afflictions due to impure action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. All Sufferers are advised to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. To prove its wonderful curative powers, it is sent to you entirely free.

## VAN DEMAN PAPERS.

### Luther Burbank and His Work.

Written for Green's Fruit Grower by our Regular Contributor, Prof. H. E. Van Deman, Late United States Pomologist.

There are few persons interested in horticulture who have not heard of Luther Burbank and his work. He has given to the world so many new fruits and those of such great value, besides many new flowers and a few vegetables that his name and fame are world-wide.

He was born on a large farm near Lancaster, Massachusetts, March 7, 1849. He is therefore just past 49 years old, and is comparatively a young man. His father, who died some 25 years ago, was a paper manufacturer as well as a farmer. His mother lives with him at his home in Santa Rosa, California, aged 85 years. She belongs to the Burpee family, a branch of which reside at Philadelphia and manages one of the largest and best seed establishments in the world. We see that a love for horticulture is in the blood, for Burbank and Burpee are both famous in that line. His father and others of the family incline to agriculture and horticulture. An uncle was superintendent of the Ames plow and spade works at Worcester, Mass., for over 50 years.

Mr. Burbank once told me that he could not remember when he did not love plants, and that the first thing of the kind that impressed upon his mind was a cactus plant in a pot that fell and was smashed before he was able to talk. His parents gave him a liberal education. At 18 years of age he went to the Ames works to learn the business of a machinist, but the dust and confinement of the shop was not agreeable to one who had his mother's love of nature and outdoor work. After three years of this incongenial life he bought a small farm near Lunenburg, Mass., and began to experiment in plant life, to use his own words. Here he originated the Burbank potato and some other things of less note, and became inspired with an ambition to follow the career of the great varieties of useful fruits and vegetables of plant life in the world. New England not being suitable for many lines of experiment that he wished to follow, he moved to Santa Rosa, California, in the fall of 1875. Here he started a nursery and the olive was one of the leading specialties.

All the while he was carrying on experiments with varieties of fruits and flowers and growing seedlings from the results of these crosses. Finding there was too much to do, he sold out the nursery and home and moved to a small place near Santa Rosa, where he was able to be spent in mere talk, and that he wished to have nothing given to the public except as he thinks it wise to do it.

On these grounds there were at one time 80,000 seedling lilacs. Mr. Burbank also originated a new race of gladiolus, which he sold out in the "reel" for seed and nurseryman. More than a million seedlings were grown to obtain the stock. The iris, the calla and the rose have also come under the mastery of this hybridizer, and many choice kinds have been produced. The raspberry and blackberry have been most thoroughly experimented with. Crosses between these two species have been made, which was long thought an impossible thing. The same has been done with the walnut and chestnut, and very remarkable hybrids have been produced. Several new chestnuts of the highest merit have also been created. New plums and quinces have been given to the public, and they are already winning the highest praise.

To produce these valuable variations from their original types, require not only the most extensive experiments in crossing the flowers, but in labeling, recording, saving seeds, planting and growing to fruiting age, but it takes a great deal of patience! No one who has not tried it can have more than a slight conception of the industry, skill and patience that such work requires. After years of thought, planning, working and waiting one may only find that he is in the wrong track. There are others besides Mr. Burbank who have spent years of patient toil originating new fruits, and it is a lamentable fact that they have received very little for it in the way of money and perhaps not very much sincere appreciation. This is not to be deplored. Notable among these deserving workers are Prof. T. V. Munson, of Texas, and Jacob Moore, of New York. Mr. Burbank has been quite successful in selling his products and is financially prosperous. But above all other sources of satisfaction to him is the thought that he is adding to the material prosperity of the world, and putting into the hands of his fellow citizens varieties of fruits and flowers that shall be a delight to them and to millions who shall come after them.

**PRUNING TO SAVE EVAPORATION.**

There is one thing that all tree planters should give special attention that is often neglected; this is to properly prune the trees or plants when they are set out. If this has not been done at the proper time it should be done without further delay. Some persons cut back before setting, but my experience teaches me to do it just afterward. The reason is that in the permanent position one can more easily decide which branches to leave and which to cut back or to cut entirely away than before.

There are two prime reasons for fundamental principles to be observed in pruning: to assist them in starting growth, and to give shape to the future tree, bush or vine.

Regarding the first, it may be well to briefly discuss the physiological reasons for pruning at planting time. It is too well known to be disputed that transplanting a shock to a new place disturbs the roots and the less the roots are disturbed the less danger is there of death or checkage of growth. The delicate rootlets that are ever ready to absorb moisture from the soil to supply the needs of the tree are necessarily cut or torn away by the operation of digging. It, therefore, becomes necessary for the tree to make new rootlets before the functions of the tree can be complete. Evaporation from the branches is going on to a limited extent, and the tree is in a limited stage, except when the air is very moist. Therefore it is necessary to reduce the evaporating surface by cutting away a part of the top. This is pruning. It will lessen the draft upon the root system. It must be understood that almost every atom of moisture that passes into the circulation of the entire vegetable structure is absorbed by tender spongy cells at the ends of the rootlets.

There is considerable variation in the requirements for moisture of different kinds of trees and plants and their ability to withstand the lack of it. Hence we see that all need not and should not be pruned alike at planting time. The stone fruits are much less able to endure the vicissitudes of transplanting than the pomeaceous fruits. We should, therefore, prune back peaches, plums and cherries very much more severely at time of setting than apple, pear and quince trees. It has been my own practice to trim peach trees to bare sticks about two feet high. This might seem too severe, but it does good. They will start off to grow much better than if the tops are left untouched or but moderately cut back. I have tested it repeatedly by leaving a few trees uncut. It is the common practice of the great commercial orchardists, all at one place is very undisturbed time to give them a fair chance to start off vigorously.

**PRUNING FOR SHAPE.**

Pruning for shape is quite another matter. The ideal of the future tree or plant should be in the mind of the planter when he makes a tree. It is the beginning of its life. For an orchard tree a central stem with branches coming out at intervals on all sides is best in nearly all cases. The very common practice of heading them so that there is a cluster of branches at one place is very undesirable, to my notion. It causes them to split apart in many cases when loaded with fruit.

Heading low is the rule in the Western States and is becoming more popular eastward. It makes a tree very undisturbed in the habit of the kind of fruit tree being handled. Peaches should be lower than apples. Then, there are great variations in the habits of the different varieties. A low growing pear tree like the Kieffer should be headed very low, and a Rhode Island Greening apple tree should be headed high, because its branches are very spreading. An abundance plant tree which grows towards the sky should be headed medium, and the "weeping" variety should be headed low. In every case it needs common sense and careful thought to prune trees or anything else at planting time, and so all along their life time. But if the above ideas are given due consideration there will be many common sense and wisely advised decisions.

P. S.—All well. Peaches not all killed here. First state of strawberries left here yesterday, May 2d.—H. E. Van Deman, Parsley, Va.

#### Watts, the Painter.

George Frederick Watts is, among all our living masters of painting, the only absolutely self-taught one. Early in his life—he was born in 1815—having an especial talent toward the plastic art, he entered the studio of William Behnes, the celebrated but unfortunate sculptor. Here he watched, but was never taught, as has been erroneously stated more than once. He visited his painter's studio or atelier, but taught himself everything.—London Standard.

#### Western Forest Fires.

It is not generally known, says John Muir in the Atlantic, that, notwithstanding the immense quantities of timber cut every year for foreign and home markets and railways, from five to ten times as much is destroyed as is used, chiefly by running forest fires that only the Federal Government can stop. Travelers through the West in summer are not likely to forget the great fires displayed along the various rail tracks. Foremen, when contemplating the destruction of the forests on the east side of the continent, said that soon the country would be so bald that birds and many choice kinds have been produced. The raspberry and blackberry have been most thoroughly experimented with. Crosses between these two species have been made, which was long thought an impossible thing. The same has been done with the walnut and chestnut, and very remarkable hybrids have been produced. Several new chestnuts of the highest merit have also been created. New plums and quinces have been given to the public, and they are already winning the highest praise.

To produce these valuable variations from their original types, require not only the most extensive experiments in crossing the flowers, but in labeling, recording, saving seeds, planting and growing to fruiting age, but it takes a great deal of patience! No one who has not tried it can have more than a slight conception of the industry, skill and patience that such work requires. After years of thought, planning, working and waiting one may only find that he is in the wrong track. There are others besides Mr. Burbank who have spent years of patient toil originating new fruits, and it is a lamentable fact that they have received very little for it in the way of money and perhaps not very much sincere appreciation. This is not to be deplored. Notable among these deserving workers are Prof. T. V. Munson, of Texas, and Jacob Moore, of New York. Mr. Burbank has been quite successful in selling his products and is financially prosperous. But above all other sources of satisfaction to him is the thought that he is adding to the material prosperity of the world, and putting into the hands of his fellow citizens varieties of fruits and flowers that shall be a delight to them and to millions who shall come after them.

**A GREAT CARRIAGE CONCERN.**

Works of the Elkhart Carriage and Harness Manufacturing Company, Elkhart, Ind.

The business methods of the Elkhart Carriage and Harness Manufacturing Company have built up a reputation during the last 25 years, requiring the large factories shown in the accompanying illustrations.

The method of selling carriages, wagons and harnesses directly to the users at factory prices is a novel feature of the Elkhart Carriage and Harness Manufacturing Company. By doing a strictly cash or C. O. D. business the concern is not obliged to charge one cent more than the cost of the goods. The liberal plan of the company includes a free examination of the goods, and if they should be unsatisfactory in any way they are returned and the company pays the freight both ways. The carriages, wagons and harnesses are up-to-date, and the prices are remarkably low. The company's an enviable reputation for dealing fairly.

**Overloaded.**

Was the head line of Lenox Sprayer Co.'s large advertisement in the New York Fruit Grower. It must have been a good advertisement, for the company has been over-loaded with orders and unable to fill them promptly, and on this account many of our subscribers got out of patience and with reason. We are pleased to learn, however, that the first order has been filled, and that work and orders are now being filled promptly.

## Personal Experience of Luther Burbank as an Originator of New Fruits.

Santa Rosa, Cal., May 4, 1898.

Mr. Jacob Moore:

Dear Sir:—In response to yours of April 20th I will say that I too have been robbed and swindled out of my best work by thieves, plant thieves and in various ways. I was well known to the originator. After all my years of very extensive experience in the work, my special advantages of soil, climate, knowledge of the work and above all my character and standing as an originator, patience and perseverance, I was swindled out of some of the plant developments now well under way and the pursuit of a few special scientific lines shall quit the work at once and forever. Those plants now well developed towards completion I have disposed of at my own convenience and in my own way.

It would be startling to the horticultural public if they knew the amount of pilfering, thieving and wholesale robbery which the originator is obliged to submit to without redress. A plant which has cost thousands of dollars in cultivation and years of intense labor and care and which is of priceless value to humanity may now be stolen with perfect impunity by any sneaking rascal. Better might the banker or the jeweler place his wares around and prominently on a table, and let any one who would possess plants of value, for he has absolutely no protection from the law and no encouragement to continue in the work even for the sake of humanity for the pilfering thief steals the product of the originator and then he is free to sell it to the thief simply because it is in his possession, thus defrauding and deceiving the planter and defaming the good name of the originator. The above refers to pirates only, for I sincerely believe mankind are more than ready to be deceived by the dishonesty of men in the world are more honorable than nurserymen and florists as a class.

Many times have I named a new fruit or flower and before a stock could be produced some horticultural pirate had either appropriated the name, using it on some other plant, or had taken the name and stealing the plant and introducing it as their own, or offering a big stock as soon as the originator commences to advertise the new variety. Only last season a now famous plant, the "Kieffer" pear, was stolen at Short Hills, New Jersey, have through their receiver, the lawyers and others, after having taken one of my productions to introduce on commission, which had cost many thousand dollars and years of precious time, and then they introduced plants which had been sent them by express prepaid, also demanding great haste in their removal otherwise "they would be sold at auction." By great sacrifice they were placed in other hands and a few weeks ago the "Kieffer" pear was sold at Short Hills, New Jersey, have through their receiver, the lawyers and others, after having taken one of my productions to introduce on commission, which had cost many thousand dollars and years of precious time, and then they introduced plants which had been sent them by express prepaid, also demanding great haste in their removal otherwise "they would be sold at auction." By great sacrifice they were placed in other hands and a few weeks ago the "Kieffer" pear was sold at Short Hills, New Jersey, have through their receiver, the lawyers and others, after having taken one of my productions to introduce on commission, which had cost many thousand dollars and years of precious time, and then they introduced plants which had been sent them by express prepaid, also demanding great haste in their removal otherwise "they would be sold at auction." 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